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Director of
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EL SALVADOR: Preparations for the Guerrilla Offensive

Both sides continue to prepare for a guerrilla offensive, which could begin any time in the next month and which seems aimed at widening the geographic scope of the war. (S NF)

Meanwhile, the Army intensified sweeps in northern San Miguel Department earlier this week, and it continues operations along coastal areas in San Miguel and Usulután.

Comment:

Especially lucrative targets in Sonsonate include the port facilities and oil refinery at Acajutla. (S NF)

In the east, the guerrillas may be planning to attack the cities of San Miguel and Santa Rosa de Lima. The Army would be hard pressed to counter guerrilla thrusts in the east and west simultaneously. (S NF)

Ochoa is tainted by his ultrarightist past and his role in the mutiny early last year that led to the ouster of then-Defense Minister Garcia. The High Command and President Duarte, however, apparently are willing to risk Ochoa's return because of the overriding need for aggressive leadership in Chalatenango since the brigade headquarters was overrun late last year. (C NF) -CIA, DIA, NSA-

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